

COALITION OF VETERANS ADVOCATES

P.O. Box 175
Rural Ridge, PA 15075

June 15, 2004

Freedom of Information Officer
Department of Veterans Affairs
810 Vermont Ave. N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20420

RE: Freedom of Information Act Request

To: Freedom of Information Officer in charge of Pittsburgh Healthcare System

This is a request under the Freedom of Information Act, 5 U.S.C. Sec. 552.

On behalf of Coalition of Veterans Advocates I request that a copy of the following documents from the VA Pittsburgh Healthcare system (all three sites) be provided for the past 5 years.

1. Any and all veteran population surveys and results
2. Any and all documents referring to patient assaults at all three Pittsburgh facilities
3. Any and all surveys, polls, and statistics related to the closing of Highland drive facility
4. Any and all records related to awards and bonuses for employees including management
5. Any and all records of settlements or judgments for EEO and Union activities
6. Any and all records of training and education for management officials
7. Any and all disciplinary actions towards employees or management
8. Any and all agreements between VA and other businesses to utilize VA property
9. Any and all copies of contracts awarded to outside businesses for work at VA Pittsburgh
10. Any and all data utilized to decide the University drive, Oakland facility would be in the best interest of Veterans with mental health conditions upon closure of the Highland drive facility.
11. Any and all information pertaining to employee, especially nursing to patient ratio
12. Any and all information on patient counts, waits, refusal of care due to lack of available services
13. Any and all information on ratio of management to lower level employees
14. Any and all records of reimbursements to employees for education, travel and miscellaneous reasons

We are aware that we are entitled to make this request under the Freedom of Information Act, and if your agency response is not satisfactory, we are prepared to make an administrative appeal. Please indicate to me the name of the official to whom such an appeal should be addressed.

We are aware that if our request is denied we are entitled to know the grounds for this denial.

We are aware that while the law allows your agency to withhold specified categories of exempted information, you are required by law to release any segregable portions that are left after the exempted material has been deleted from the data I am seeking.

We request a waiver of all fees for this request. Disclosure of the requested information to COVA is in the public interest because it is likely to contribute significantly to public understanding of the operations or activities of the government, and is not primarily in the our commercial interest.

Joseph Backers
Director, Coalition of Veterans Advocates